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11. (Currently Amended) The network according to claim ~~[[1]]~~13, wherein said at least one access node further comprises an optical amplifier for simultaneously amplifying all wavelengths on the fiber optical feeder ring.

12. (Currently Amended) The network according to claim ~~[[1]]~~13, wherein said End Station further comprises an optical amplifier used as a channel equalizer in order to compensate for a loss in said fiber optical distribution loop and associated optical components allowing said optical amplifier to be shared over all wavelengths.

13. (Currently Amended) A WDM fiber optical ring network for communicating information in a metro access area using one or more wavelengths, which can be shared by a plurality of user terminals, comprising:

a fiber optical feeder ring;
at least one fiber optical distribution ring;
a network node (NN) for providing an only optical carrier signal transmitted across said optical feeder ring and said at least one fiber optical distribution ring;
at least one access node (AN) for permitting only selected wavelengths of said optical carrier signals to be transmitted along said at least one fiber optical distribution ring, said network node and said at least one access node connected via said fiber optical feeder ring; and
at least one end station (ES) connected via said fiber optical distribution ring to said at least one access node, wherein a user terminal in said plurality of user terminals is attached to said at least one end station; ~~The network according to claim 1;~~

wherein information comprises:

downstream data packets;
optical chalkboard packets consisting of a recognizable pattern; and
control signals.

14. (Currently Amended) The network according to claim ~~[[1]]~~13, wherein said at least one end station further comprises:

a receiver for downstream packets; and
a semiconductor optical amplifier (SOA), which amplifies and modulates light to create upstream data.